

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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----- 114698

R 112239Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5622

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJ: ENERGY: CANADIAN OIL SUPPLY IN 1985

1. IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD FEB 7, ENERGY MINISTER  
MACDONALD STATED THAT CRITICAL QUESTION FOR CANADA "IS TO  
ASSURE SECURITY OF SUPPLY IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND  
1985 WHEN WE ANTICIPATE BEING BACK IN A SURPLUS POSITION."

2. IN SOME FURTHER ELEABORATION OF THIS CLAIM FOR 1985  
(EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT HEARD SUCH A PREDICTION BEFORE),  
MINISTER MACDONALD DESCRIBED THE FUTURE CANADIAN  
PROSPECTS, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE U.S. OIL PIPELINE THROUGH  
CANADA AS FOLLOWS: "AS SOME EXPLORATION SUCCESS HAS BEEN  
INDICATED SO FAR THIS WINTER, THERE IS A REAL PROSPECT FOR  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL HYDROCARBON RESOURCES IN THE  
MACKENZIE DELTA AND, ULTIMATELY, IN THE BEAUFORT SEA. WE ARE  
TAKING MEASURES WITH THE INUDSTRY IN ORDER TO PERMIT THAT  
EXPLORATION PROGRAM TO GO AHEAD, AND I THINK RESULTS HAVE  
BEEN ENCOURAGING UP TO THIS POINT.

"THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED IN HIS STATEMENT  
THAT, SUBJECT TO MEETING THE CRITERIA OF THE CONCERNS  
OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND ALSO  
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THE IMPACT ON CANADA'S GENERAL ECONOMY, WE WOULD LOOK

TO COMPLETION AT AN EARLY DATE OF THE MACKENZIE VALLEY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE. WE HAVE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOW THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AN OIL PIPELINE AS WELL, TO LINK THE RESOURCES FROM UNITED STATES SOURCES IN ALASKA WITH THOSE NOW BEING DEVELOPED IN THE MACKENZIE VALLEY.

"I DO NOT THINK ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON AT THIS POINT COULD GIVE A FIRM AND FINAL PREDICTION AS TO WHETHER, AS THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD INDICATED, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BY 1985 WE WILL MOVE BACK TO A SURPLUS POSITION; HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT THE COLLECTION OF ALL THESE MEASURES PROVIDES AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CANADIAN HYDROCARBON RESERVES AS OPPOSED TO POTENTIAL -- THE POTENTIAL IS OBVIOUSLY ENORMOUS -- CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND HARNESSSED WITHIN THIS TIME FRAME. IT IS THAT KIND OF POLICY WHICH, AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES IN THIS HOUSE AND BEFORE COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE HYDROCARBON POTENTIAL OF CANADA." PORTER

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